

# On and about Duxbury Bay

*This is the first part in an on-going series about life on Duxbury Bay. This week we look at events planned for the annual Opening of the Bay Memorial Day weekend.*

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**A**labama, a 90-foot schooner from Martha's Vineyard's famed Black Dog Tall Ships has set its course for Duxbury Bay. This week, following in the wake of its esteemed predecessors — Ernestina, the Kalmar Nyckel and the Spirit of Massachusetts, to name a few — the Alabama will arrive Thursday evening, in advance of the weekend's eighth-annual Opening of the Bay festivities.

Events, planned by the Duxbury Bay Maritime School, will begin Friday morning, as part of the school's largest annual fundraising effort.

"By bringing in a tall ship, like the old coastal schooners, we're giving people a link back to the town's maritime history," said Ned Lawson, executive director of the school.

The Alabama's voyage to Duxbury is sponsored by the Dahlan, Southall and Metcher families.

Approximately one-third of the maritime school's operating budget of \$900,000 is raised each year

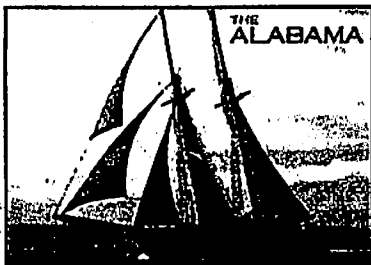


Photo courtesy of Black Dog Ship

Alabama



file photo

**At the helm** — Trevor Tingle had the tricky task of steering the HMS Bounty through Snug Harbor and on to Plymouth during last year's Opening of the Bay festivities.

through fundraising. Last year, the Opening of the Bay weekend raised nearly \$80,000. Courses typically range from \$200 to \$500.

"Events like these are a significant contribution to our budget," Lawson said. "It allows us to reach out to people who can't otherwise pay tuition."

The school serves to foster a life-long love of the sea through educational and recreational pro-

grams, regardless of economic status. No student has ever been turned away from the maritime school because of financial constraints, Lawson said.

The weekend's events are not only inclusive of that maritime education and recreation, but also of community bonding, according to DBMS events coordinator, Missy Battista.

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# DUXBURY BAY

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Sea chanties

# Tall ship *Alabama* comes to the bay

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"It all started years ago with the tall ship, and it just evolved into this huge event," Battista said. "Everyone knows The Black Dog, so they get excited about that. Then it's just a fun weekend planned around that."

The two-day celebration will kick-off Friday morning with two family sails aboard the *Alabama* (\$24 per person), which begin at 9 a.m. and noon. Live and silent auctions will follow, beginning at 2 p.m. and running through the evening. The night will culminate with the Salty Dog Ball (\$90 per person). The ball, aligning itself with the Black Dog theme, will include ship tours, music, dinner and dancing under the tent, and a raw bar sponsored by Island Creek Oysters.

Festivities will continue Saturday, also dubbed Family Day. They will be sponsored by Dunkin' Donuts. The company's sample truck will be on hand with free coffee and doughnuts beginning at 11 a.m.

The schedule also includes another round of ship tours (\$5 per person, \$10 per family), a silent auction, performances by the Duxbury High School Jazz Band and Watson Reid and Americana.

Local vendors – Maddy & Me Designs, TLC Creations, True North Instruments, Doreen Driver and UK Sailmarkers – will be on hand selling their wares throughout the day.

Children's activities will also be a big portion of the day, Battista said.

A wide range of options will be available to young families, both educating and entertaining. They include:

- tug boat rides
- knot tying demonstrations
- raffles
- ecology exhibits (rainforest reptiles display, New

England Aquarium tide pool, Project Gurnet and Bug Light Inc., Battelle Labs microscope and Wildlands Trust exhibits)

- Black Dog bean bag throw
- buoy toss
- shell frames and boxes
- face painting
- tattoos
- "Guess the Dog Bones in the Jar" contest
- visit from Red Sox Mascot, Wally the green Monster
- Expressions, paint your own pottery studio, will set up shop and help children pick an appropriate maritime theme for their painting.

Tickets for the events are still available at the school, The Studio and Westwinds book store. The ubiquitous Black Dog T-shirts are also available at the school.

"I'm just hoping that people will come out and see that the bay is alive and well," Lawson said.

In the 1950s, when Lawson began the family tradition of sailing in Duxbury, the town was smaller he said, and therefore a larger percentage of residents had a direct connection to the water. Now that Duxbury has expanded in size, the town draws people from all over for a variety of reasons, not just the bay. The opening of the bay gives the school a chance to remind people of what the bay has to offer.

"It also lets us show people what we've been up to and what we've accomplished," Lawson said.

The maritime school is predominantly concerned, he said, with experiential learning. Classes teach children lessons like being prepared and dealing with the unknown.

"There are all sorts of lessons," he said, "that the sea is out there to teach

# Seaside guests

The *Alabama*, a Black Dog Tall Ship, was first launched in 1926. A 90-foot gaff rigged schooner, which displaces 150 tons of water, the *Alabama* was designed by Thomas McManus, well-known for his design of similar Gloucester schooners.

The ship was originally used as a moored bar/pilot vessel. The *Alabama* was in use until 1966, when she was purchased by the Coastwise Packet Co. and taken to Martha's Vineyard from Alabama.

In 1995, Captain Morgan Douglas, son of the company's founder, took on the three-year task of rebuilding the ship.

The *Alabama* is now equipped for passengers rather than cargo, and can carry up to 49 people on day sails and 27 overnight passengers. It has two cabins and employs six crew members.

Captain Robert Douglas and his son, Captain Jamie Douglas, will bring the *Alabama* into Duxbury Bay Thursday evening.

Other notable visitors:

- In 2004, the 180-foot *H.M.S. Bounty* docked in the bay for the weekend's festivities. The current incarnation of the ship was

first launched in 1960 and featured in such movies as "Mutiny on the Bounty" and "Treasure Island."

The ship's roots, however, go as far back as 1787, when its predecessor sailed – under the direction of Captain William Bligh – from England to Tahiti to collect breadfruit trees for the West Indies.

On the return voyage, Fletcher Christian and a band of mutineers overtook the ship and set Bligh and 18 members of the crew adrift.

Bligh and his crew ultimately returned safely; several mutineers were captured and put to trial. However, in the interim, the *Bounty* was burned.

In July 2003, prior to its voyage to Duxbury Bay, the ship underwent \$1.5 million in renovations. This was the first in a three-part restoration project. It now carries 30 passengers.

- The *Kalmar Nyckel*, the guest of honor at the 2003 Opening of the Bay, is known as one of America's pioneering colonial ships.

In 1638, it sailed from Sweden to the colony of New Sweden

present-day Wilmington, Del. In its first voyage, it left 24 settlers in the New World.

The Nyckel made four round-trips across the Atlantic, more than any ship of its period.

The ship now serves as Delaware's seagoing good-will ambassador.

Relaunched in 1997, the 93-foot long ship carries 49 passengers.

- The *Spirit of Massachusetts*, first launched in 1984, visited the bay in 2000. It was designed and built by the New England Historic Seaport as a sailing school ship. Much like the Duxbury Bay Maritime School, it was meant to offer young people opportunities for self-development via hands-on maritime learning.

The ship is a 125-foot, two-masted schooner, modeled after the *Fredonia* 19th century Gloucester fishing schooner, known for its speed and beauty.

The *Spirit* was constructed with the assistance of more than 250 volunteers.

Fit for 50 daysailers and 24 overnights, the *Spirit* is not only a passenger ship, but also carries the U.S. Coast Guard Sailing School Ship Certificate.